

REGISTRATION SERVICE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE: April 17, 1991

FULL NAME Benjamin Traver III
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

S.S. NO. [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

CITY Syracuse STATE NY ZIP CODE 13208

DATE OF BIRTH 8/17/62 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE _____ (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION _____ NATIONALITY (Citizen of) American

OCCUPATION Police Officer

EDUCATION _____

WEIGHT _____ HEIGHT Approx. 5'10" RACE Black

COLOR OF HAIR Black COLOR OF EYES Brown

ANY DISTINGUISHING PHYSICAL CHARACTERSTICS _____

HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS _____

MARRIED ☐ SINGLE ☒ NAME OF SPOUSE _____

CHILDREN _____
(Name, number, ages, if possible)

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	POSITION	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
E70	Syracuse	NY	AA		9/89

Chartered Organization Syracuse Police Dept.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION _____

INCIDENT: TYPE 2 DATE OF INCIDENT _____ RESOLUTION _____
Type Resolution

- 1=Scout Related
2=Scout related
3=homosexual (not specifically with youth)

1. Internal (only Scouts Know)
2. Criminal action
3. Court action
4. Probationary status
5. Reported to state agency

MAY 01 1991

Check off list of attached documentation

1. Description of incident
2. Victim(s) statement
3. media reports
4. Legal proceedings
5. Offender's statement
6. Official notification of termination
7. Found guilty/innocent by court

CONFIDENTIAL

Council Hiawatha #373 Signed _____

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

APR 24 1991

F. STARON

38287-260-11/3/88

CONF025388

READY FOR FILE

MAY 02 1991

BARBARA GOSEY

May 2, 1991

Mr. William J. Moran
Scout Executive
Hiawatha Council, No. 373

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: BENJAMIN TRAVER, III

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Ineligible Volunteer File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration and Statistical Service

bg

cc: Charles D. Ball, Northeast Region

CONF025389

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1991

Officer quits under threat of sex crime case

By Charles Miller
Staff Writer

A Syracuse police investigator resigned Tuesday after officials threatened to arrest him on felony sex crime charges.

Investigator Benjamin J. Tarver III, 29, cleaned out his locker Tuesday.

Police will not charge Tarver with the sodomy of a 15-year-old boy because the boy did not demand prosecution, Chief Timothy Cowin said Tuesday.

Tarver was active with the city police explorers post of the Boy Scouts of America until 1989. He first registered with the post in 1986.

Several parents complained to the police department about Tarver's involvement with the boys in the explorer post. Police officials today said they told the parents that Tarver would not participate in the program.

One parent, who requested anonymity, said Tarver often invited children to his home.

"That's just not right," the man said. "He was up to something. He knew he wasn't supposed to do anything like that. All the kids felt nervous around him."

Larry Bystran, assistant executive of the Hiawatha Council of the Boy Scouts, said one-on-one activity with participants is prohibited.

No complaints had been filed against Tarver through the Boy Scouts office while he was an advisor to the explorer post.

Bystran said the police department decides who can be involved

with the program. When the department submitted its updated list of advisors for registration in 1989, Tarver's name was not on it.

Anyone accused of sexual abuse is prohibited from scouting activities.

"We don't tolerate abuse of any kind," Bystran said Tuesday. "We regard one case of abuse as one too many. (Tarver) won't be involved in scouting anymore."

First Deputy Police Chief Timothy Mumford said criminal charges against Tarver did not have to be lodged.

"If it's acceptable to all parties involved, then other action such as resignation is OK," Mumford said Tuesday. "Police officers are held to a higher standard in the public light these days."

Chief Assistant District Attorney Michael Price the case is under investigation by the prosecutor's office. Price declined to provide any details.

"I've been in contact with the police department, and it's currently under investigation," he said.

Police department officials said the boy never asked that Tarver be charged criminally. Cowin said it would be difficult to prosecute Tarver without cooperation from the boy.

Tarver was accused of having sexual contact in January with the 15-year-old. State law makes it illegal for someone 21 years or older to have sexual intercourse with a person younger than 17.

Officer quits under threat of sex crime

■ OFFICER

Continued from Page B1

Officers within the department investigated the complaint against Tarver. Sources said they found enough evidence to support felony charges against the officer.

"Keep in mind that he's losing a career over this," one ranking official said. "For someone to give that up, it's got to be serious. Believe me, it is."

Tarver could not be reached for comment today.

The father whose children were involved in scouting said he feared because Tarver was not arrested that he could become involved with children elsewhere.

"What if he moves to California and becomes a cop?" he said. "He could do children's programs out there, and no one would know what happened here."

Tarver was hired in 1985 as a patrolman but left to join the Rochester Police Department. He returned to Syracuse in 1986 and later joined the Criminal Investigation Division.

■ OFFICER, Page B3

*Added to the file
not reg at this time
not on need file
4/23/91
cm*

CONF025390

Officer Resigns after Sex Charges Levelled

By MIKE McANDREW
The Post-Standard

A city police investigator resigned Monday after a supervisor confronted him about an allegation that the investigator sodomized a teen-age boy.

Police do not intend to charge Investigator Benjamin J. Tarver III with a crime because the victim did not demand prosecution, Syracuse police Chief Timothy Cowin said.

In a letter recently sent to the police department, Tarver was accused of having sexual contact in January with a 15-year-old, Cowin confirmed.

Tarver could not be reached for comment Tuesday night.

(See POLICE, Page B-2)

Police Won't Press Charges Against Officer

(POLICE, from Page B-1)

In New York, it is a felony for a person 21 years or older to engage in deviate sexual intercourse with a person less than 17 years old.

"There was an allegation of a crime. We investigated it. When we brought the officer in to discuss it, he decided to resign," the chief said. "It was his decision to resign."

Cowin said the victim never specifically requested Tarver be charged.

"All he said was he wanted some disciplinary action taken against the officer. He didn't express an interest in any criminal action," the chief said. "At this point, it appears with his resignation, that will satisfy both the police department and the victim. He seems to be satisfied with this. We've discussed it with the DA (district attorney). They're satisfied with this disposition."

He said it would be difficult to prosecute Tarver without a victim's cooperation.

Tarver was hired in 1985 as a city police officer. He voluntarily left the force for a brief period to work as a Rochester police officer. But he returned to the Syracuse police after deciding the Rochester job was not what he desired.

He was active with the city police's Explorers post, a program for youths who want to explore possible careers in law enforcement, until one year ago.

In a meeting Monday morning, First Deputy Chief Tim Mumford did not demand that Tarver resign or face criminal prosecution, Cowin said.